

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 SS-15 SP-02 OPR-02 H-01
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
USINT BAGHDAD IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 167513

FOR ASST SEC SAUNDERS AND AMB LEWIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, SY, IZ, FR, UR

SUBJECT: MILITARY SUPPLY ISSUES WHICH GOI MAY RAISE WITH
VICE PRESIDENT

REF: TEL AVIV 8211 (NOTAL)

1. FOLLOWING MAY BE DRAWN UPON REGARDING GOE PITCH THAT
"TROUBLING EVENTS" WITH REGARD TO ARMS TRANSFERS TO ARABS
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HAVE TAKEN PLACE RECENTLY.

2. PRESS REPORTS THAT SAUDI ARABIA IS PLANNING TO
PURCHASE \$24 BILLION WORTH OF ARMS FROM FRANCE HAVE BEEN
DENIED BY BOTH COUNTRIES. SAUDI ARABIA IN THE PAST HAS
PURCHASED FRENCH ARMS (AIR DEFENSE MISSILES, TANKS AND
OTHER GROUND EQUIPMENT), BUT WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE OF ANY

PENDING FRENCH SALE OF THIS MAGNITUDE TO SAUDI ARABIA.
IN ADDITION, THE SAUDIS HAVE GIVEN US ASSURANCES THAT
THEY WILL NOT ADD TO THEIR COMBAT AIRCRAFT INVENTORY FROM
OTHER COUNTRIES WHILE THEY ARE PREPARING FOR AND RECEIVING
THE 60 F-15S FROM THE U.S. EVERY INDICATION WE HAVE IS
THAT SAUDI ARABIA INTENDS TO LIVE UP TO THESE ASSURANCES.

3. WE KNOW OF NO NEW MAJOR SOVIET MILITARY ARMS
AGREEMENTS WITH EITHER IRAQ OR SYRIA IN 1978. IRAQ
SIGNED A MAJOR ARMS AGREEMENT WITH THE USSR IN 1976
VALUED AT 1.2 BILLION DOLLARS AND SMALLER AGREEMENTS IN
1977 WORTH ABOUT 150 MILLION DOLLARS. SYRIA SIGNED
MAJOR AGREEMENTS WITH THE USSR IN 1977 WORTH A TOTAL OF
ABOUT 900 MILLION DOLLARS. IN EARLY 1978 SOVIET SYRIAN
MILITARY TALKS REPORTEDLY TOOK PLACE IN ORDER TO WORK
OUT THE DETAILS OF THE ACCORDS REACHED IN 1977, BUT
THERE WERE NO NEW AGREEMENTS OR COMMITMENTS OF SOVIET
ASSISTANCE SO FAR AS IS KNOWN. VANCE

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